

The Civic Green

South County Garage Sale Days Coming in September!

Promote the idea of reuse, conserve landfill space and avoid wasting valuable resources by having a garage sale! This year, Gilroy will hold their City-wide Garage Sales the weekend of September 11th and 12th and Morgan Hill's and South County's sales will be held the following weekend, September 18th and 19th. Don't miss this excellent opportunity get rid of that unwanted stuff while making some extra cash and helping the environment! To participate as a seller, you must complete and return an application by Friday, September 3rd for Gilroy sales or Friday, September 10th for Morgan Hill/South County sales. Visit www.secondchanceweek.com for complete details.



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Going Green for Back-to-School



Can you believe it's back-to-school time already? Summer vacations have come and gone and the beginning of another school year is quickly approaching. The back-to-school ads are starting to appear in the newspaper urging us to buy tons of new stuff for the new school year, but do you really need that much or are you just succumbing to the hype? Now is the time to consider ways that you can combine school's three R's - 'readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic with the environmentalist's three R's - reduce, reuse, recycle! Back-to-school time is the perfect time to adopt some greener habits that your family can practice all year long.

Eco-Friendly Supplies

Take inventory of what you have left over from last year and only buy what you really need. It's likely that you already have pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, erasers and glue laying around the house. Does your child have a partially used notebook from last year?

Tear out the used pages and decorate the cover with photos or pictures cut from magazines. If you have to buy, choose secondhand things when you can. If you have a choice between new and used books, always pick a used book. When buying school supplies, look for products that are eco-friendly, nontoxic and constructed from recycled materials. Avoid last-minute impulse purchases by making a list of what you need (and sticking to it!) before you head to the store.

What to Wear



For many students, image is very important, but this doesn't automatically have to mean a shopping spree at the mall. Again, take an inventory of what you've got that still fits. Get more life out of the clothes that your child has outgrown by organizing a clothing swap with friends. Practice reuse by shopping at thrift stores, consignment shops or yard sales. "Vintage" clothes are much cooler than new clothes, right? If you must buy new, buy only what you need and stick with clothing made from organic cotton, hemp and other natural fibers.

Are you getting Your Recycling Rewards?

The RecycleBank recycling rewards program is now in full swing! RecycleBank measures and records the amount you recycle, converts it into points and credits your RecycleBank account each time you recycle. All you have to do is bring your recyclables to the curb on your recycling day. Your recyclables will be weighed and converted into RecycleBank Points. For every one pound that you recycle, you'll earn 2.5 RecycleBank Points. Points are automatically deposited into your RecycleBank account. Here are just a sampling of the many rewards that you can redeem at: www.recyclebank.com For just 50 points, get \$5.00 off of a grocery purchase at Safeway or buy one entrée at El Toro Brew Pub and get one at 1/2 off. For just 60 points, get a free bruschetta with a \$15.00 purchase at D'Vine Jazz & Wine. For 100 points, get \$10 off any purchase at Morgan Hill Cellars or buy one item at BookSmart and get a second item at 1/2 off. What are you waiting for? Visit www.recyclebank.com or call 888-727-2978 and get registered today!

Transportation

Do you drive your children to school every day? To help reduce air pollution, set up a carpool with other parents. If you live in a safe area that's close to your child's school, encourage them to walk, bike or skateboard to class to save energy while getting exercise. If walking to school just isn't feasible, you can also encourage them to take the bus whether it's the public transportation system or the yellow school bus.



Lunchtime

Lunch is everyone's favorite subject, but if your child is taking a brown paper bag filled with baggies or pre-packaged snacks to school every day, that adds up to a lot of trash. A great way to help your child stay healthy and eco-friendly this school year is to send them off with their own prepacked lunches. Choose washable, reusable containers instead of plastic wrap and baggies for packaging food. Keep lunches cool by freezing water or juice in a reusable container and



putting it in the bag. Buy food in bulk instead of in single-serving portions that waste packaging, not to mention your cash. Pack healthy green lunches that your kids will want to eat and get them involved in choosing lunch ingredients, since they'll be less likely to trade food that they want to eat. Choose local and organic foods and snacks. A few excellent choices are fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts.

Be An Advocate

If you see that there is room for improvement at your child's school, you can make a difference. Re-



quest that your school only order supplies that are made of at least 30 to 50 percent recycled materials. Raise awareness by organizing environmental events like a tree planting day or a litter pick-up day. Suggest that your school cafeteria provide healthy, locally produced lunch options and organic milk and juices. Finally, make sure that your school is recycling. If not, volunteer your time to help make it happen.

Use these tips to get your child back-to-school, but don't forget to extend your good green start to behaviors that last all year long!

This Month's Green Living Tip:

Clean and Healthy Creeks

You can help keep our creeks clean! Come out and help us mark storm drains in Morgan Hill to create awareness throughout the community that what flows into our storm drains ends up in our local waterways. Water that flows into the storm drains does not get treated before emptying into our local creeks and streams. NEVER wash anything into a storm drain that you would not want to drink!



Environmental
Programs Division

17575 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Phone: 778-6480
Fax: 779-7236

environ@morganhill.ca.gov
www.morganhill.ca.gov



Join us on Saturday, August 28th from 9am-Noon if you'd like to help. We'll meet at the Community & Cultural Center, 17000 Monterey Road, at 9:00 am to receive tools, maps of storm drains that need to be marked and instructions. We welcome all ages, but a parent or other responsible adult must be present for anyone below age 18 to participate. Call 778-6480 for more information or email us at: environ@morganhill.ca.gov